

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for making a modified nucleoside comprising a covalently attached signalling moiety or signalling moiety precursor, said method comprising:
- 5 a) adding an anhydro-nucleoside and a signalling moiety or signalling moiety precursor comprising a primary amine in the presence of an activation agent to form an activated anhydro-nucleoside;
- b) treating said activated anhydro-nucleoside with a cyclization agent to form a cyclized intermediate; and
- 10 c) treating said cyclized intermediate with a base to form said modified nucleoside.
2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising adding a phosphoramidite group to said modified nucleoside.
3. A method according to claim 2 further comprising incorporating said phosphoramidite modified nucleoside into a growing nucleic acid.
- 15 4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said nucleoside is a naturally occurring nucleoside.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said nucleoside is a nucleoside analog.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said activating agent is carbonyldimidazole.

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